

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
November 13, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Bob Szoke, Impact Christian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mr. Minchuk was absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Mr. Hardaway thanked everyone that came out and supported the Veteran's Program it was a great success. Mr. Hardaway said that The Town of Merrillville was ranked 17th on safest communities in Northwest Indiana he thanked the Police Department for the worked they have done keeping the town safe.

Clerk Treasurer Eugene Guernsey gave the Oath and provided the Swearing in of the new Police Officers:

Nicholas W. Enyeart
Julian J. Garza

The Town Council congratulated and welcomed the new Police Officers.

Mr. Hardaway said there was an article in the newspaper that the City of Hobart and the Town of Merrillville were collaborating. Mr. Hardaway stated that he has not had any conversations with anyone in the City of Hobart at this time but when this conversation does happen he will inform everyone.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated November 13, 2018. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2018. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spires said due to the recent snowfall the leaf pick-up schedule will be about a week behind and asked residents to be patient.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report. Mr. Peturch said he has participating with other communities for school bus safety. Mr. Peturch said officers have been out patrolling to help deter drivers from running the school bus arm and keep the community and kids safe.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca had no report and referred to Ms. Olrich for a report. Ms. Olrich said she has coordinated with Public Works to start the Christmas decorations and move onto the park. The Santa Precession will be held on December 7th it will start at MIS and end at Pruzin Park. Ms. Olrich said the High School band will be at Pruzin Park along with Santa and hot drinks and snacks will be served.

Mrs. Uzelac commended Ms. Olrich on the great job she did with the new signage for Benjamin Park located on Hendricks Street and Route 30.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Barron had no report.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report. Mr. Hardaway said that for National Education Week Town employees will be attending MIS on Thursday morning for Pirate Power and read books to students.

Mr. Pettit said on Saturday the Crossroads Gala will be honoring the Police officer and Firefighter of the year for the Town of Merrillville.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway said he is pleased to announce the tear down of the Old Mill Facility is complete and the demolitions will be moving forward in addition to a couple of other things that will be addressed.

Mrs. Barron said she would like to commend the Town Council and the Committee for Abandoned Properties for a job well done with taking care of the Old Mill property.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 18-27:

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana appropriating additional monies within the Merrillville Fire Territory Operating Fund, of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2018 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 18-28:

An Ordinance vacating a public way in the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana and all matters related thereto. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance with discussion and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. Discussion followed. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to read Ordinance 18-28 on second reading and suspend the rules. Mrs. Barron seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 18-26:

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana appropriating additional monies within the Casino Fund for the year 2018 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 18-28:

An Ordinance vacating a public way in the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana and all matters related thereto. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance with discussion and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 18-27:

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana authorizing the partial reimbursement of the shortfall loan for 2012 G.O. Bond. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 18-28:

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana authorizing the transfer of dormant funds. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner:	Lamar Advertising Co. (TLC Properties, Inc.)
Owner:	TLC Properties, Inc.
Request:	Variance of use approval
Purpose:	To allow LED digital advertising display sign
Location:	Broadway W/S 300 ft. N/O Hwy. 30
Zoning:	C-3 Highway Commercial
Case #:	Z36uV10-1018
Conditions:	For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only

Mrs. Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was some discussion. The motioned was approved by unanimous voice vote with 1 abstention.

Petitioner: Christopher Enright
Owner: James R. Felsenthal
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: To allow retail automotive, auto service
Location: 8200 Louisiana Street
Zoning: C-3 Highway Commercial
Case #: Z37E19-1018
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only

Mrs. Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was some discussion. The motioned was approved by unanimous voice vote

Petitioner: Brian Dilosa
Owner: Mary Ann Wilczynski
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: To allow a church
Location: 1205 West Lincoln Hwy.
Zoning: C-3 Highway Commercial
Case #: Z39E20-1018
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only, security camera's per Town Ordinance and provide cross access agreement to the town.

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was some discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:
None

NEW BUSINESS:
None

PUBLIC COMMENT:
All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Environmental Resource Committee meeting has been canceled.

Plan Commission meeting, November 20, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Town Hall offices closed (except for Emergency Services)
November 22nd & 23rd 2018 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Redevelopment Commission meeting, November 27, 2018 at 6:15 p.m.

Town Council meeting, November 27, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Barron made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer